

for cotton manufacturing in the South. Mecklenburg County raises annually about 30,000 bales of cotton, but this is not sufficient to supply the mills with raw material, as more than 45,000 bales are consumed. These mills operate nearly 200,000 spindles and 5000 looms. The

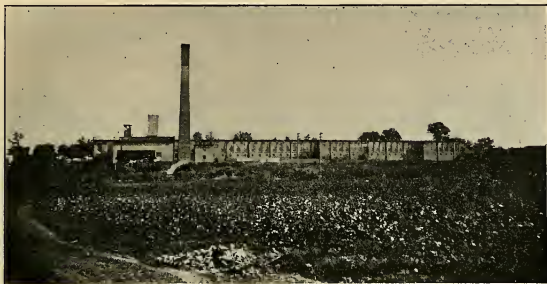


FIG. 33.

Cotton field and mill near Charlotte.

value of the annual output is over \$5,000,000. In addition to cotton manufacturing, there are foundries, machine shops, cotton-seed oil mills, etc.

Radiating from Charlotte in every direction are excellent macadam roads, bringing the city into close touch with the whole of Mecklenburg County, one of the best agricultural sections of the state.

Charlotte is the southern gateway of the state, a number of railroads connecting it with the other parts of North Carolina and with the other Southern States.

Concord, Gastonia, Burlington, Graham, Spray, Randleman, Albemarle, King's Mountain, Lincolnton, Bessemer City, Rockingham, and other cities and towns of Piedmont North